

New Jersey Al-Anon Assembly Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2016

Middlesex County Fire Academy, 1001 Fire Academy Road, Sayreville, NJ

**OFFICER REPORTS**

Chairperson- Rich M.  
Delegate – Ann Marie Z.  
Alternate Delegate – Donna S.  
Treasurer - Stacey P.  
Corresponding Secretary – Millie  
Interim Recording Secretary- Cheryl S.

**COORDINATOR REPORTS**

Alagram – OPEN	Alateen – Sue C.
Archives -OPEN	Literature - Kathy B.
Public Outreach – Karen P.	Website – Angela R.

**LIASON REPORTS**

JalCon	-Sue H
NJIS -	Mike G
SJIS -	LizM
SIG-	Gloria

Meeting opens, Chairperson Rich M welcomes all. Serenity Prayer is said by the group. Al-Anon Traditions and concepts are read.

Rich stops to ask for a volunteer to record the meeting minutes. Cheryl S. volunteers.

Rich states that all Group Representatives (GR's) need to have the Al-Anon Service Manual. He is informed that they are sold out.

Rich reminds those present that food can be brought into this room; however, we must leave on time and clean up after ourselves to maintain a good relationship with this facility as we are given use of the room at no charge.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

**Chairperson Rich M** reports to the assembly, attachment 1. World Service Conference 2017 theme is; Our Members: Our Hope for the Future.

**Delegate Ann Marie Z** reports to the assembly, attachment 2. Ann Marie stated she received a 60% response to the three questions posed regarding open versus closed meetings. Ann Marie reported that there was a lengthy discussion regarding member concerns about the Prayer for Today, the concern being that it is a Christian prayer. As the group did not reach a clear consensus it was agreed that the discussion would continue next year after hearing back from the individual Area 36 meetings.

Chairperson Rich M states that a new Director of WSO is needed as the current Director has retired and moved to Florida. Mary Gregory has been appointed as Interim Director. She will send an e-mail asking what the current situation is.

Chairperson Rich M states that people who are members of both AA and Al-Anon cannot hold office as it is a conflict of interest.

**Alternate Delegate** – Donna S. states that a volunteer is needed to bring refreshments to the next Assembly meeting.

**Treasurer** -Stacey P. reports to the assembly, attachment 3. She asked that group contact her if their donation is not listed in the income report. Stacey's position will be taken over by Audrey G.

**Corresponding Secretary**- Millie reports to the assembly, attachment 4. Because all Al-Anon groups need to be able to be reached a group e-mail is strongly recommended. This is WSO's preferred way to contact group. Mille can register group's e-mail with WSO. It was suggested that groups use their town and last four numbers of their WSO number as their e-mail address. Older groups will only have a four digit number. WSO would like to discontinue "snail mail".

Chairperson stated that Alagram/Archives need someone to step up to these position. Please let your group know this.

**Public Outreach** – Karen P reports to the assembly. Karen spoke about the Teacher's Convention in Atlantic City. She said to contact Carol if you have an upcoming event and she will have literature for you to bring.

**Alateen** - Sue C reports to the assembly, attachment 5. There was a training meeting held at United Methodist Church.

There were eight attendees. There will be one more training in mid- November/December. Four training sessions are planned for next year. Sue was asked if WSO approved posters will be put in places like train stations to draw teens to meetings-

Sue was asked if there is ever training "here" (here being this facility). She said yes, but "northern don't want to come here".

Sue was asked if there are trainers to train trainers. She said if people are available she will get with them.

Sue was asked if the Alateen Advisory Committee discussed policy so that all groups are on the same page and if she will get the next training date out before the next assembly.

Chairperson asks if anyone is having trouble getting on Yahoo groups.

**Literature Coordinator - Kathy B.** reports to the assembly: Kathy says her job is to introduce literature. A new workbook is coming in January 2017. It is meant to accompany "Paths to Recovery". It will cost \$10. Both books can be purchased together for \$25, a \$4 savings. Kathy states that they sell an Al-Anon calendar and that it's preferable to use this in meetings as there are no "outside interest" (business advertising) in it. They are looking for dates and event photos for the 2018 calendar.

Tom Coffey is Director of Literature. Various workshops use Al Anon literature.

Guidelines for sharing are on our website. Handout was given explaining how to get on website. Check out the website. The more we know the better we can serve our group.

Sue H. would appreciate it if all GR's have Al Anon calendar as it makes it easier for her to compile. Chairman asks if using a digital camera would create a better quality picture for converting color to black and white.

**Web Site Coordinator-** Angela reports to assembly. Angela reports that she has made it through her first year as Website Coordinator. They have changed the layout which makes it easier to see on your phone. When you sign on the site tracks those using a computer differently than those using their phone. Bylaws were updated, under About Us. Keep sending her notices of anniversaries, potlucks, etc. Please don't use butterflies.

Angela can be reached @ [webmaster@nj-al-anon.org](mailto:webmaster@nj-al-anon.org)

**District 2 Report,** Attachment 6

**District 3 Report** –Katie O.. reports to assembly, attachment 7. Thanks to Sue and Kathy for April Potluck. Due to dwindling meetings there is a need to increase donations from one to two dollars. They seem to be seeing more people suffering from heroin addiction.

**District 4- Robin** reports to assembly, attachment 8. Two groups in district are reluctant to send financial support as they do not have a group checking account. Discussion followed on how to open a group checking account. As Al Anon is not considered a non-profit a checking account would have to be linked to a Social Security number, which conflicts with our anonymity.

**District 16 Diane S** reports to assembly. Diane suggested purchase of Al Anon calendar for previously discussed reasons. Looking for a corresponding secretary.

**District 20/21-** Kate O. reports to assembly, attachment 9. Peter will be the new GR. 65th birthday fundraiser was held October 22"d from 12:15 to 4 pm. Katie needs to step down as she is in school, but she has loved giving service. Rich will cover this until February or until someone steps up. WSO says this person needs to have a solid

Al Anon background. Mary F district 27 may be able to step up.

**District 25 Report**, Attachment 10

**JalCon Assembly Report**. Sue H. Attachment 11

**District 27**- Mary F. - Cape May/Atlantic County. They are trying to set up Alateen meetings in South Jersey. Friday meeting in Courthouse has been taken off the meeting list.

Sue H. said JalCon needs volunteers or there will be no JalCon! Thanks to 2016 helpers – Katie O, Karen T, Katie O, and Diane S for running the workshops. Also thanks to Ezra, Mirta and Diane S. for returning to committee.

**NJIS Mike G**, Attachment 12. Please attend meetings to help keep them going. If your group has an event please invite NJIS.

**SJIS Report** – Liz M, Attachment 13

**BREAK FOR LUNCH @ 12:35**

**RETURN FROM LUNCH BREAK @ 1:10**

The meeting was resumed with the saying of the Serenity Prayer.

### **New Business**

A count was taken of GR's present. 39 GR's present.

No changes were made to the June 4th Assembly minutes. Motion was made to accept as is. Motion seconded. GR's voting to accept as is – 34 vote yes – 5 abstain.

Discussion was held regarding the budget. -

Sue H said postage cost needs to be increase.

Poster expense in budget needs to be changed to Project expense.

Rich discussed the success of posters in train station. Public Outreach will decide if they'll do this again.

Tax item in budget covers our filing fee. We will live within our projected budget. Budget is a guestimate based on previous year. In the event of shortfall AWSC can authorize using money from one category for another category.

Budget needs "ample reserve". This amount has not been defined. Should taxes be amended to taxes/charity registration filing fee.

Motion made to approve amendments to budget. Motion seconded. Motion approved.

Vote to elect Audrey G as new Treasurer in January when Stacy P. steps down.

Vote taken and Audrey G is approved as new Treasurer.

## **Old Business**

Someone is needed to chair TEAM events. See Rich and Paul after meeting if interested.

## **Skits**

Ann Marie explains that a task force developed Skits to inform groups and help them understand the diversity of culture/communities. Skits are performed. The theme is to step out of your comfort zone. In attempting to preserve our own group and out of fear of others who are not like us, we may discriminate. We must remember that Al Anon is not allied with any one religion. We have one purpose -to help those who suffer from someone's drinking.

**Literature Committee** – Task Force presentation regarding possible change or not in the use of "Prayer for Today" (also known as Prayer of St Francis of Assisi). Attachment 14. This is still being discussed.

Some suggestions are 1) edit prayer 2) only use a portion of the prayer 3) keep prayer as is.

**Ask It Basket** - was passed around earlier for members to place questions. Rich reads some of the questions.

1. Should all literature be changed to say higher power rather than a religious word such as God, Lord, Master, etc.
2. Can we give out "When I got busy, I got better".
3. Can AA members be GR's for an Al Anon group?
4. Remind GR's to read 1/2/3 in Service Manual. Outside issues do not belong in meetings.
5. AA members in Al Anon can serve on projects for World Service. They can, however, serve as ISR (Info Service Rep), and can attend as an Alternate GR.